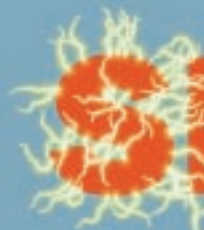




# This Is the



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**W**e have noticed an alarming trend when it comes to unauthorized shipboard electrical modifications. This trend is not isolated to one community; we see it on surface ships and submarines alike. The unauthorized modifications vary from souped-up surge suppressors and extension cords to hot-wired, and I do mean hot-wired, bunk lights. These modifications are not authorized. They pose a serious electrical shock hazard to some unknowing soul who may use this equipment.

Take a close look at the two photos below. Do you see any problems? Let me give you a scenario. You wake up and decide to shower before relieving



Shown are three examples of illegal, shipboard bunk-light extension cords. Note the three different wire gauges used, along with three different plugs. All three cords were made by soldering onto the connector terminals of fluorescent bunk-light starter capacitors.



A closeup photo shows a jury-rigged, shipboard bunk-light starter capacitor where an illegal extension cord has been soldered onto the starter terminals. Aside from being illegal, these unauthorized extension cords are dangerous because they pose shock and fire hazards.

# Mocking

# Truth

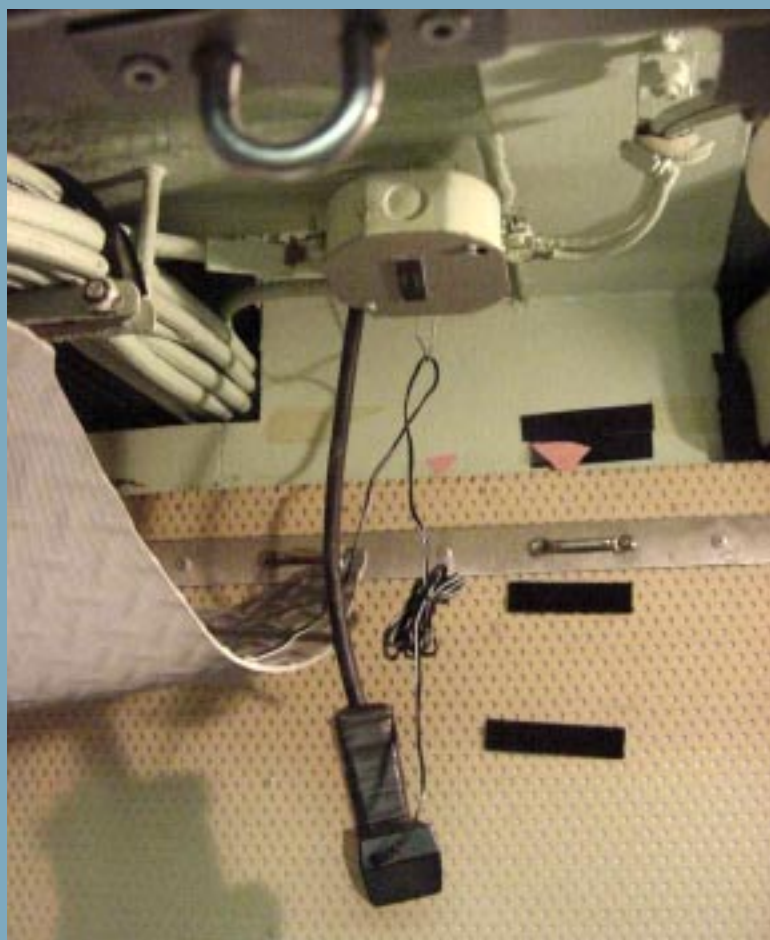
the watch. You return to your bunk with your skin still slightly wet from the shower. The deck is cold because you forgot your shower shoes, and it's dark. Sound familiar? No problem! Just turn on your bunk light and let the sunshine in. Instead of sunshine, you see lightning bolts and feel an intense burning sensation in your hand—all because you just grabbed the uninsulated end of one of these brilliantly altered contraptions. You now are being electrocuted. Instead of relieving the watch, you are being relieved, permanently.

This kind of stuff is very dangerous and places all hands at great risk—and we haven't even touched on the fire hazard yet. Fire is probably the

most serious casualty for a ship at sea. The intense heat and choking, toxic smoke have the potential for destroying an entire ship—again, all because somebody had to turn a bunk into a private little power station.

Check out the photo below on this page. Have you ever seen this? It's a classic example of what we found on one of our submarines. This picture raises some very troubling questions:

- Was a tagout done to complete this masterpiece?
- How long has this alteration existed?
- Is this a common practice?
- Is the command aware of it? If so, what are they doing about it?



All hands are responsible for identifying and reporting hazards aboard their ship. Be thorough during zone inspections because some of these modifications are hard to spot. A good practice is to have unannounced inspections, and keep them random. This denies crew members time to hide or remove such illegal modifications.

Remember, you get what you inspect, not what you expect. Taking a round turn on these problems will make our ships safer and keep us from losing our most valued commodity: Sailors. ⚓

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Shown is another illegal extension cord found aboard a submarine—this one was made by illegally tapping into a junction box and splicing into existing power cables.